

REMARKS

At the time of the Final Office Action dated September 20, 2004, claims 1-2, 4, 11, 12, 24, 25, 27, 34, 35, 40, 42 and 50-57 were pending and rejected in this application. Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 50-57 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim 51 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. Claims 54-57 are amended, and claims 1-2, 4, 11, 12, 24, 25, 27, 34, 35, 40, 42 are cancelled. Applicants respectfully submit that by the present Amendment and Remarks, this application is placed in clear condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, entry of the present Amendment and Remarks and favorable consideration are respectfully solicited.

On pages two and three of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1, 24, 40, 42, and 54-57 for various informalities. In response, Applicants have amended claims 54-57 in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Applicants, therefore, solicit withdrawal of the objection to claims 54-57.

CLAIMS 1-2, 4, 24, 25, 27, 40, AND 42 ARE REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 FOR

OBVIOUSNESS BASED UPON WATANABE IN VIEW OF CASH

Claims 1-2, 4, 24, 25, 27, 40, and 42 have been cancelled. Thus, the rejection of claims 1-2, 4, 24, 25, 27, 40, and 42 are moot.

**CLAIMS 11-12 AND 34-35 ARE REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 FOR OBVIOUSNESS
BASED UPON WATANABE IN VIEW OF CASH, AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF ROSTOKER ET AL.**

Claims 11-12 and 34-35 have been cancelled. Thus, the rejection of claims 11-12 and 34-35 are moot.

Applicants have made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art, and it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. However, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. Accordingly, and in view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants hereby respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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